

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 and 20-27 are pending in the present application. By this reply, claim 24 has been amended. Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 15 and 24 are independent claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating this application is in condition for allowance. Upon a further review, Applicant has noticed a minor typographical error in claim 24. Accordingly, claim 24 is being amended to correct this error. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this amendment.

Should there be any matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David Bilodeau (Registration No. 42,325) at 703-205-8072.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time use.

Dated: October 28, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By Esther H. Chong
Esther H. Chong, #40,953
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

EHC/DAB/sks